

Chinese Spotbill (*Anas p. zonorhyncha*) being recorded as truly migratory. It must, however, be noted that Dementiev *et al.* (1952) in BIRDS OF THE SOVIET UNION describe this race as a straggler to the Soviet Union having been recorded from northern Japan to SE. China and Korea.

This particular bird had travelled a distance of about 2884 km. in a northern direction from the point of release in about 8 months.

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7. BAYA WEAVERBIRD NESTING ON HUMAN HABITATIONS

(With eight figures in two plates)

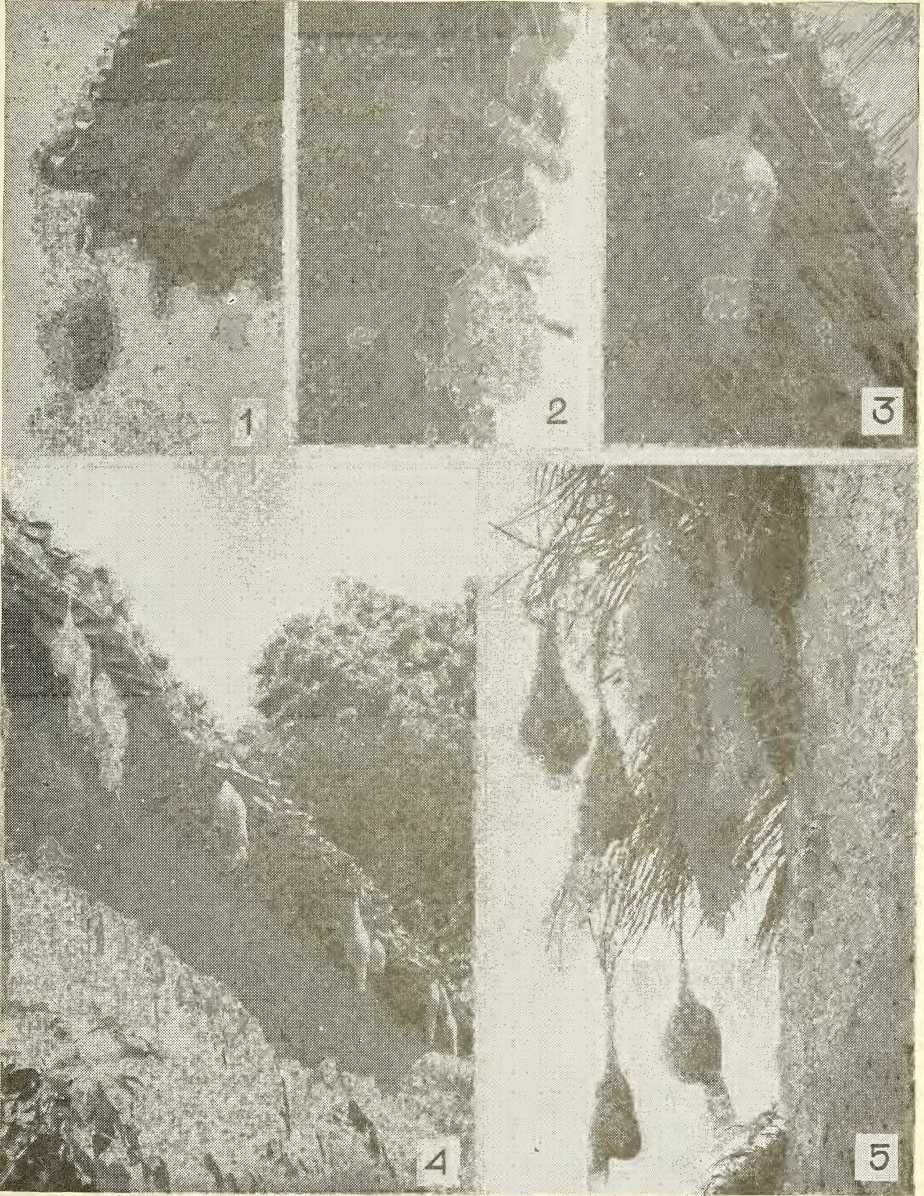
The Baya weaverbird (*Ploceus philippinus*) distributed throughout India, Burma, Ceylon, Malaysia and Thailand is famous for its intricately woven, retort-shaped, dangling nest. Equally important is the bird's capacity in selecting a variety of trees and other objects most suitable for siting its nests. In India, at least 30 different species of trees have been preferred as hosts besides telegraph and power lines, sides of wells, copium of compound walls and even eaves of houses.

Jerdon (1863)¹ wrote about the Bayas in India not using houses as nesting sites thus, 'In India I have never seen the Baya suspend its nests except on trees, but in some parts of Burma, and more particularly in Rangoon, the Bayas usually select the thatch of a bungalow to suspend their nests from, regardless of the inhabitants within. In the Cantonment of Rangoon, very many bungalows may be seen with twenty, thirty, or more of these long nests hanging from the end of the thatched roof, and, in one house in which I was an inmate, . . . a small colony commenced their labours towards the end of April, and, in August, when I revisited that station, there were above one hundred nests attached all round the house'. Smythies (1953)² also mentions that the eaves of village huts in Burma is one of the preferred places for *Ploceus philippinus* to hang their nests. Recent Indian literature on the Baya

¹ JERDON, T. C. (1863) :—The Birds of India 2, pt. I. The Military Orphan Press, Calcutta.

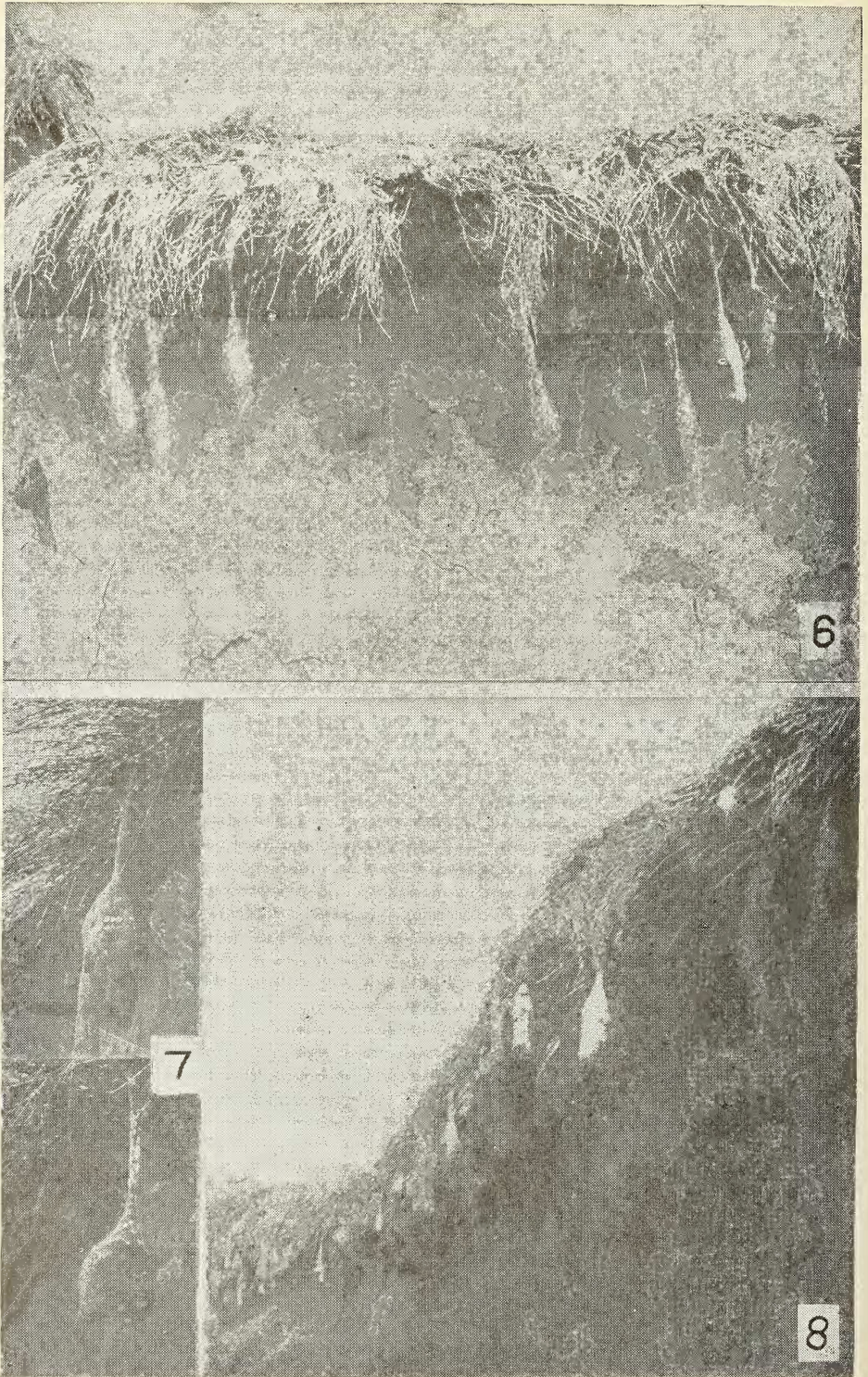
² SMYTHIES, B. E. (1953) :—The Birds of Burma. Oliver & Boyd, London.

Davis : Baya nests



Figs. 1. A complete nest of Baya weaverbird hanging from the corner of a roof; 2. Another complete nest suspended from the grass-lining under a tiled roof; 3. A splinter separating from a bamboo split used as the reeper for a roof supports a large, complete nest of the Baya; 4. Seven nests hanging on the eaves of a house. Note the egg-chamber of all the nests facing the wall; 5. Seven of the approximately 30 nests attached to one side of the grass roof of a house near Lucknow.

Davis : Baya nests



Figs. 6. Closer view of a group of nests hanging on another side of the roof referred to in fig. 5 ; 7. These only two nests (complete) hang on the same roof (same level), 5 metres apart, of another house ; 8. General view of a side of the house referred to in fig. 6 showing over 250 nests. Many of the nests were partially damaged at the time of observation.